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SECURITY INFORMATION

29 November 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR POLICY COORDINATION

SUBJECT: PSB Staff Study on Publicity with Respect to  
Novel Weapons

1. The PSB Staff has circulated a staff study on the subject above in order to determine basic policy guidance with respect to Governmental statements on this subject and to establish a general procedure for release of information with respect to novel weapons.
2. The basic policy guidance must support our National objectives and, more specifically, be governed by the Tripartite disarmament proposal made before the UN General Assembly. (Paragraph 6, Page 3)
3. The paper lists four considerations with respect to global treatment, which should be answered before public statements are made, and then establishes seven principles of interim basic guidance. (Paragraph 7, Pages 4 and 5)
4. The need for a Novel Weapons Guidance Committee is recognized, which would include members from the principal Departments and Agencies of the Government and be chaired by a member from the White House Staff. (Paragraph 11d, Page 7)
5. Three Tabs are attached to the basic paper, which include guidance for high level statements, the reduction of panic effect, and area media treatment.
6. The paper recommends that the afore-mentioned Tabs be distributed to appropriate Departments and Agencies for guidance, that the afore-mentioned coordinating mechanism be established with the organizing action to be undertaken by the PSB Staff, that detailed interim guidance with respect to the supporting Tabs be prepared by the Department of State, that the members of the PSB authorize the Director to conduct an evaluation of the effects abroad of public statements with respect to novel weapons, using the facilities of Departments and Agencies responsible for the conduct of Psychological operations. (Paragraph 12, Page 8)

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7. The following staff sections have had the opportunity to comment upon this paper: FE, NEA, WE, PY. The changes or modifications being recommended are proposed by the PY Division.

8. Proposed Action

Recommend that you forward the attached memorandum with proposed changes and modifications to the paper to the Director of the PSB.

25X1A

Chief, Psychological Staff Division

**Attachment:**

Proposed Memo to Director, PSB

PY/FRZ:jd

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NOV 30 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: 25X1A

Director, Psychological Strategy Board

SUBJECT: CIA Comment on Publicity with Respect to Novel Weapons

1. The Staff Study prepared by the Psychological Strategy Board on the above subject has been reviewed by CIA.

2. Proposals: The following changes are recommended:

a. Paragraph 7c, Page 4 - Delete (1) and (2), and substitute the following:

(1) Reiterate the peaceful intentions of the U. S. Government, and emphasize that our research and development in the field of novel weapons is undertaken in the interest of security and to reduce the disparity between Soviet armament potential and U. S. armament weaknesses.

(2) Comment: (1) and (2) as written are not credulous statements.

b. Paragraph 7c (6) - Restate as follows:

(1) Emphasize that Soviet intransigence with respect to atomic energy and novel weapons control systems or inspection and reports leaves the U. S. no alternative other than to continue its scientific development in the interest of its own security.

(2) Comment: As (6) is currently stated, there is little reality for drawing a comparison between the Soviet responsibility for this condition and the U. S. attitude. As written, (6) supports (3) more concretely.

c. Paragraph 11d - CIA would recommend that the chairman of the Information Guidance Committee be the Director of the Psychological Strategy Board, and we strenuously oppose the Chairmanship from the White House Staff.

d. Paragraph 8, Page 5; Paragraph 11f, Page 7; Paragraph 11g, Page 8; and Recommendation 12c, Page 8 - CIA believes that the guidance established herein is sufficient unto itself and that the responsible departments and agencies of the Government should be guided.

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be guided accordingly; that additional guidance should stem from the Information Guidance Committee per se, rather than from any Governmental Department. CIA would therefore recommend the deletion, as appropriate, or modification of these paragraphs.

3. Subject to the above comments, CIA agrees that a guidance of this type is necessary and recommends that it be considered by the PSB Alternates at the next meeting.

(Signed) KILBOURNE JOHNSTON

KILBOURNE JOHNSTON

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